

EXECUTIVE ORDER

.01.01.2009.XX

Governor's Commission on Suicide Prevention

- WHEREAS, Suicide is a preventable public health problem;
- WHEREAS, Suicidal behavior is complex as risk factors vary with age, gender, or ethnic group and may occur in combination or change over time;
- WHEREAS, In 2004, Suicide ranked as the eleventh most frequent cause of death (third most frequent in young people) in the United States, with one person dying from suicide every 16.6 minutes;
- WHEREAS, Maryland ranked 44<sup>th</sup> among States in suicide completions in 2004, with 500 suicide completions, or an average of 5 suicide completions every four days;
- WHEREAS, Veterans have a higher risk of suicide than the general public;
- WHEREAS, Ninety percent of people who die from suicide have depression, other mental disorders, or a substance-abuse disorder often in combination with other mental disorders;
- WHEREAS, The number of completed suicides in Maryland among individuals between the ages of 15 and 24 was 1,219 from 1990-2006, and for individuals age 25 and over, 3,323 from 2000-2007;
- WHEREAS, Suicide is particularly devastating in the rural areas of Maryland where one suicide may significantly impact entire small communities for years, even generations;
- WHEREAS, Maryland has a 25-year history in the area of youth suicide prevention and intervention which began with survivors who formed an advocacy organization called Marylanders Against Youth Suicide (MAYS);
- WHEREAS, In response to this public health issue, Maryland developed the first decentralized crisis hotline in the country, developed the first Internet based collection system for coordinated statewide hotline network called Hotline Online Tracking System;
- WHEREAS, In FY 2007 – 2008, an interagency group drafted *Linkages to Life: The Maryland State Plan For suicide Prevention, FY 2008 – 2012*, to update the State's original plan, completed in 1986;

NOW THEREFORE,

I, MARTIN O'MALLEY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY THE VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, HEREBY PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2009:

A. There is a Maryland Commission on Suicide Prevention.

B. Membership and Procedures.

(1) The Maryland Commission on Suicide Prevention consists of up to 20 members appointed by the Governor.

(2) The Chairperson shall be designated by the Governor.

(3) The Governor may remove any member of the Commission for any cause adversely affecting the member's ability or willingness to perform his or her duties.

(4) In the event of a vacancy on the Commission, the Governor shall appoint a successor for the remainder of the life of the Commission.

(5) A majority of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any Commission business. The Commission may adopt such other procedures necessary to ensure the orderly transaction of business.

(6) The members of the Commission may not receive compensation for their services.

C. Membership. The Commission consists of the following 20 voting members:

(1) The following two members, who shall serve ex officio:

(a) One member of the Senate, to be appointed by the Governor; and

(b) One member of the House, to be appointed by the Governor;

- (2) The Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, or the Secretary's designee;
- (3) The Deputy Secretary of Behavioral Health, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene or the Deputy Secretary's designee;
- (4) The Deputy Secretary of Public Health Services, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene or the Deputy Secretary's designee;
- (5) The Secretary of the State Department of Education, or the Secretary's designee;
- (6) The Secretary of the Department of Juvenile Services, or the Secretary's designee;
- (7) The Secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, or the Secretary's designee;
- (8) The Secretary of the Department of Aging, or the Secretary's designee;
- (9) The Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, or the Secretary's designee;
- (10) The Secretary of the Governor's Office for Children, or the Secretary's designee;
- (11) The Secretary of the Department of Disabilities, or the Secretary's designee;
- (12) One representative of the Mental Health Association of Maryland;
- (13) One representative of the National Organization for People of Color Against Suicide;
- (14) One representative of the Maryland Addictions Directors Council;
- (15) One representative of the faith community;
- (16) One representative from the academic community;
- (17) One representative from a suicide prevention group;

(18) One veteran;

(19) One family member of an individual who completed suicide;

(20) One suicide survivor; and

(21) One Health Officer representing a rural county.

D. Members appointed by the Governor may serve up to two consecutive, three-year terms;

E. All members of the Commission serve at the pleasure of the Governor;

F. Procedures. The following procedures apply to the Commission:

(1) Members of the Commission may not receive any compensation for their services but may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, in accordance with the Standard State Travel Regulations, and as provided in the State Budget;

(2) The majority of voting members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business;

(3) The Commission may adopt such other procedures as may be necessary to ensure the orderly transaction of business, including the creation of committees or task forces;

(4) The Chair may, with the consent of the Commission, designate additional individuals, including interested citizens, elected officials, educators, or specialists with relevant expertise to serve on any committee or task force;

(5) The Commission may consult with State agencies to obtain such technical assistance and advice as it deems necessary to complete its duties. All Executive Department agencies shall cooperate with and assist the Commission in carrying out its responsibilities;

(6) The Commission shall meet at least four times a year.

G. Purpose. The Commission shall have the following objectives;

(1) To develop a comprehensive, coordinated and strategic plan for suicide prevention, intervention, and post-vention services across the state for individuals and their families.

(2) To develop a comprehensive baseline listing of existing support systems for survivors, attempters, and their families.

(3) To promote a coordinated, collaborative, and comprehensive effort by local and State agencies to ensure effective and efficient use of State and local resources for the delivery of a continuum of suicide prevention, intervention, and post-vention services for Maryland citizens.

(4) To recommend adequate resources to address suicide prevention, intervention, and post-vention service needs of Maryland citizens, including citizens involved in the criminal justice system;

(5) To review the impact of suicide on the health and well-being of Maryland citizens; the economic and social costs; and on demonstrated promising practices in the organization and delivery of effective and efficient State and local suicide prevention, evaluation, and treatment services.

H. Duties. The Commission shall have the following duties:

(1) To identify, develop, and prepare a 2-year plan that establishes priorities and strategies for the organization, delivery and funding of State suicide prevention, intervention and post-vention services in coordination with the identified needs of the citizens of the State, both the general public and the criminal justice population, and the strategies and priorities identified in the plans established by local jurisdictions. The plan and all updates shall be submitted to the Governor and shall include recommendations for coordination and collaboration among State agencies in the funding of suicide prevention, intervention, and post-vention services, promising practices and programs, training, and emerging needs for State suicide prevention, intervention, and post-vention services. The plan and its updates shall be submitted to the Governor by October 1, 2010.

F. Staffing. The Office of the Governor shall designate the primary staff support for the Commission.

G. Reports. The Commission shall report annually to the Governor on a date set by the Governor and prepare and submit any other reports as may be required by the Governor and the General Assembly.

Given Under my Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, in the City of Annapolis, this XX day of XXXX, 2009.

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Martin O'Malley  
Governor

ATTEST:

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John P. McDonough  
Secretary of State